components by the automotive component makers is on the increase; and

(b) if so, how does the Government propose to ensure the availability of only reliable automotive component parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) No specific complaints have been received by the Ministry about supply of unreliable components by any licensed/registered automotive component makers.

Development of Food Processing Industries in West Bengal

3770. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop food processing industries in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : Various Plan Schemes have been formulated by this Ministry for development of food processing industries in the country. State Government Public Sector Undertakings, Cooperative Societies, etc., are given financial assistance for development of food processing industries, under the Plan Schemes, on their proposals received through the State Governments. Under one such scheme, an amount of Rs. 3.68 lakhs was sanctioned in favour of West Bengal Government for their marketing scheme for fruits & vegetables processed products. This scheme is to be implemented by The Teesta Fruit & Vegetable Processing Ltd., a State Government Agency.

Setting up of National Cable Authority

3771. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Cable Authority to provide licence and to regulate the growth of Cable T.V. in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) The Inter-Departmental Committee set up to look into various aspects of Cable TV Networks and Dish-Antennae Systems had inter-alia recommended the setting up of a National Cable Authority. No decision has been taken on this recommendation.

Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

3772. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of net profit earned by various Public Sector Undertakings during the year 1990-91 and what percentage does it constitute of the capital invested in these Undertakings;

(b) whether the amount of the interest being paid on the capital invested in these Undertakings is more than their net profit; and

(c) if so, the amount of the interest in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Net profit earned by 233 operating enterprises during 1989-90 amounting to Rs. 3781.73 crores which is 4.06% of investment. The accounts for 1990-91 are in various stages of preparation in the different public sector enterprises.

(b) Yes, Sir. During 1989-90, total interest payable amounted to Rs. 4245.39 crores.

(c) Interest payable during 1989-90 in each case is given in Volume-III of

Public Enterprises Survey 1989-90 placed on the Table of the House on 27-2-1991.

Average Retail Price of Common Salt

3773. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average retail price of common salt/iodised salt respectively in July 1990 and July, 1991:

(b) whether it is possible to roll back the average price to the July 1990 level;

(c) if so, the measures taken in regard thereto: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The average retail price of common salt in July '90 and July '91 was Rs. 1.20 and Rs. 1.50 respectively. The average retail price of iodised salt both in July '90 and July '91 was Rs. 1.87.

(b) to (d) There has been a marginal increase in the average retail price of common salt while there has been no change in the average retail price of iodised salt in July '90 and July '91. Though there is no statutory control over prices of salt, the Government have been taking various measures like daily monitoring of prices, holding of meetings with the manufacturers and coordinating with Railway for movement in order to ensure that the prices of edible salt remain steady.

Production and Demand of Salt

3774. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production each of common salt and iodised salt during the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (upto end of July);

(b) the average annual demand for domestic consumption in the country of common salt/iodised salt; and

(c) the average cost of production of common salt/iodised salt during the aforesaid periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The production of common and iodised salt during the preceding three years is as under:—

(*In tonnes*)

Year	*Common Salt*	*Iodised Salt*
1989-90 .	83,41,400	22,56,800
1990-91 .	101,41,100	25,04,400
1991-92 . (Upto May, 1991)	32,52,800	4,83,600

(b) The average annual demand for domestic consumption of common and iodised salt respectively is 24.41.000 and 26.16.000 tonnes.

(c) The cost of production of common and iodised salt during the preceding three years is as under:—

(*Figures in Rs. per tonne*)

Year	*Common Salt*	*Iodised Salt*
1989-90 .	100-140	130-185
1990-91 .	120-165	155-215
1991-92 .	135-180	175-235

[*Translation*]

Incentives to manufacturers of button and jewellery from Oyster Shell

3775. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any cottage industry manufacturing buttons and jewellery from oyster shell in Mehasi in east Champaran district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of units thereof functioning at present and the num-